

# SPECIAL PLACES

*A Newsletter of The Trustees of Reservations*

*Volume 3, Issue No. 2, Spring 1995*



*For the first time in recent years, this magnificent estate, which was a summer home of the Richard Crane family, will be open regularly to members and the general public. Photo by Jim Engelbrecht.*

## Castle Hill Grounds Open for Walking and Picnics

Beginning May 1, the grounds of Castle Hill in Ipswich will be open daily for walks and picnics except when the property is reserved for special events. Members will be admitted free of charge; non-members will be charged \$5 per car.

Castle Hill has long intrigued visitors who have come to know the property through its summer performing arts festival, Great House tours, and as the most spectacular site for private events in the Greater Boston area. Now, for the first time in recent years, this magnificent estate, which was a summer home of the Richard Crane family from 1911 to 1949, will be open regularly to members and the general public.

The drumlin that is now known as Castle Hill had been utilized by Native Americans for centuries when Captain John Smith observed "many cornfields and delightful groves" in the vicinity in 1614. Castle Hill Farm, as it was called, was first owned by John Winthrop, Jr. in 1637, changing hands within the family many times over the next 200 years. When farmed

by Manassah Brown, beginning in 1843, the property supported cattle, horses, sheep and swine and included pasturage, hayfields, cranberry meadows and orchards.

In 1886, Castle Hill Farm began its transition from working farm to summer estate, as Manassah's son John Burnham Brown managed the property for his siblings. Between 1886 and 1888 Brown worked with landscape architect Ernest W. Bowditch to lay out scenic carriage roads on the hill and design plantings of trees, shaping the hill as we experience it today, and in 1899, when Brown purchased full title to the property, he renovated the farmhouse at the base of the hill into a large shingle-style home. In the early years of the 20th century, Boston's North Shore attracted summer residents from all over the country, including Chicago plumbing magnate Richard Crane who bought Castle Hill Farm in 1910. Crane engaged Boston architects Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge to design a house and full complement of outbuildings in the Italian Renaissance style. For landscape design of

*(Continued on page 11)*

*Dear Friends and Trustees:*



Many people are saying that it is too much to expect the Massachusetts legislature to consider and pass more than one significant environmental bill a year. I am more optimistic than that and I want you to know why. The Trustees of Reservations continues to work hard to secure both the **River Protection Act** (S1099) and the **Open Space**

**Bond Authorization** (H3972).

"A river is more than an amenity . . . it is a treasure," wrote Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. Today's state and local regulations do not adequately safeguard this treasure, except in towns which have adopted special river protection bylaws. The proposed Rivers Bill recognizes that a healthy river is more than its flowing water. A healthy river also includes the bordering bands of vegetation and wildlife habitat.

The Senate passed the Rivers Bill for the second time last year, thanks to Senator Robert Durand's sustained and skillful leadership. At the end of 1994, at long last, the House Ways & Means Committee took up the Rivers Bill. Although the committee did not clear the Bill, its Chairman, Thomas Finneran, indicated for the first time that he would accept a comprehensive regulatory framework for the state's rivers. That is real progress and a tribute to solid, grassroots backing for a Rivers Bill. The challenge this year is to find common ground with Chairman Finneran so that, following Senate approval, a bill can be brought to the House floor and passed.

In addition to securing stronger regulatory protection of our rivers, we need to reaffirm our Commonwealth's long-standing, bipartisan commitment to the use of public dollars for open space acquisition and protection. This commitment began at the same time The Trustees was founded; in fact,

maps prepared by Charles Eliot and his far-sighted colleagues over 100 years ago provided the framework for what has become one of the best open space systems in the nation. Our challenge today is to extend that system as our legacy to the future.

A \$315 million Open Space Bill was approved by the National Resources Committee too late to be taken up by the full House before the session ended. This bill, refiled this year as H3972, represents thousands of hours of work by the Committee, Secretary of Environmental Affairs Trudy Coxe's able staff, and open space advocates including The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, as well as The Trustees.

I am especially pleased to report that the Open Space Bond Bill proposes a \$25 million program that would, for the first time in Massachusetts, directly assist land trusts as well as municipalities to purchase, protect, and manage important open space properties.

On both issues, we look forward to working with the new House Chairman of Natural Resources, Barbara Gray of Framingham, a staunch supporter of conservation, as well as with Senator Durand.

What can you do to help? Again, legislators need to hear your views, by letter, phone, or personal visit. I know that you may have written or called on these matters already, but this is a new year, with a new legislature, and there are many issues competing for our representatives' daily attention. When you contact them, please make this point: both the Rivers Bill (S1099) and the Open Space Bond (H3972) deserve to pass this year. Our Massachusetts heritage deserves no less.

Frederic Winthrop, Jr.  
*Director*



**The Trustees  
of Reservations**

The Trustees of Reservations is dedicated to preserving for public use and enjoyment properties of exceptional scenic, historic and ecological value across Massachusetts. Founded in 1891, it is the world's oldest land trust.

Today, The Trustees owns and manages 76 properties, totaling 19,500 acres, and protects an additional 9,700 acres through the use of conservation restrictions.

The Trustees of Reservations is a private, non-profit organization and relies for support entirely upon membership dues, contributions, admission fees, grants and endowments.

**Frederic Winthrop, Jr.**  
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*Deputy Director for  
Planned Giving*

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*Deputy Director for  
Property Management*

**Ann F. Powell**  
*Deputy Director  
for Development*

**Marah Ren, Editor**  
[SpecialPlace@eWorld.com](mailto:SpecialPlace@eWorld.com)

**Wesley T. Ward**  
*Deputy Director  
for Land Conservation*

**Regional Supervisors**

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## Newbury Gift Provides Protective Buffer at Old Town Hill

In 1635, Francis Plummer rowed up the Parker River and landed at the foot of what is now Cottage Road in Newbury to take possession of his King's grant, the first settler of this Essex County town. Three hundred and sixty years later, descendants Mary Barton and Storer Humphreys have donated 21 acres of forest and salt marsh on Cottage Road to The Trustees of Reservations.

The strategically located parcel provides access to a nearby 21-acre parcel that Mrs. Barton and Dr. Humphreys donated to The Trustees in 1987 and brings to 73 acres their total additions to our Old Town Hill Reservation. The new parcel contains valuable wildlife habitat and is another link in the marsh-edge protective buffer that helps to make the Parker River estuary one of the most productive waterfowl feeding and resting areas in Massachusetts. Local committee members are now planning a fundraising campaign to recover the \$8,000 in transaction costs that The Trustees incurred in acquiring the property, including demolition and removal of an abandoned cabin at the marsh edge.

"Because of the continuing generosity of the Barton and Humphreys families, we and future generations will be able to experience the lands of Newbury as they were in the years of our founding settlers – a pure, uplifting reality of woods and pasture and salt marsh stretching to the ocean beyond," says local committee member Joanie Purinton. 🌱



*Mrs. Mary Barton with her son, Robert Barton, stand before land that Mrs. Barton and her brother, Dr. Storer Humphreys, have donated to The Trustees for addition to Old Town Hill Reservation. Photo by David Powell.*

## Annual Giving Challenge Met Charles Eliot Society Leads the Way

When Chairman of the Standing Committee Norton Sloan declared the annual giving program to be The Trustees' highest priority last fall, he set in motion a tremendous effort on the part of the entire organization that has had outstanding results.

First, a group of anonymous donors made a \$50,000 challenge gift matching each new dollar given for annual operating support on a one-to-one basis. Second, the governing board established a new giving society, The Charles Eliot Society, to encourage leadership gifts for annual support and, led by the Executive and Development Committees, each member of the board undertook to make an increased commitment to annual giving.

Inspired by this leadership, the general membership gave over \$30,000 new dollars toward meeting the challenge while The Charles Eliot Society attracted over 90 founding members. Together with increased contributions by many members of *The 1891 Society*, these commitments more than met the \$50,000 challenge. In fact, the annual giving program not only met its ambitious goal of \$850,000, but exceeded it.

Seldom has a call for action yielded such results. "Obviously, I am delighted with the outcome," said Chairman Sloan. "The hard work and generosity our members exhibited in this year's annual giving program show what a deep commitment there is to the mission of The Trustees. My thanks to everyone for a job well done!" 🌱

## Cummington: New APR Completes Upland Farm Protection

Visitors who have approached The Trustees of Reservations' William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cummington from the south will remember the scenic fields and magnificent canopy of maples that mark neighboring Upland Farm. Protection of the farm has long been a priority for The Trustees, and in 1992, working with owners Frank and Cecile Herron and the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program, we succeeded in protecting over 200 acres through the conveyance of permanent development restrictions to the state Department of Food and Agriculture.

Eighty acres of the farm remained unprotected, and vulnerable to development. On February 2, however, in a transaction facilitated by The Trustees, Frank and Cecile's son and heir Jeff sold an APR to the state, permanently protecting this land and completing protection for this magnificent farm. Thanks go to our partners, Associate Commissioner of Food and Agriculture Rich Hubbard and the APR program, for their commitment to agriculture in Cummington. To this we add our special gratitude to the Herron family for their love and dedication to the land and farming, and for their patience while we and the state worked to assemble the funding and line up the details. We're delighted that we'll be able to call Jeff "neighbor" for years to come. 🌿

## Cook Family Challenge Advances Phelps Campaign

Over seventy people gathered at Field Farm Reservation in South Williamstown one snowy Sunday afternoon in February to celebrate the recent accomplishments of The Trustees and our local partner, the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, in our joint effort to preserve over 660 acres of the abutting Phelps Farm.

Visitors were treated to slides, a presentation by the leaders of the two organizations, refreshments, and an exciting announcement. Family spokesman Averill Cook told the gathered crowd that the Cook family of South Williamstown had pledged up to \$50,000 to match, on a 1:3 basis, all new donations to the Phelps preservation effort.

To preserve most of this magnificent farm, the two organizations moved quickly last year, borrowing the \$360,000 needed at the closing from internal funds and the seller. A joint fundraising campaign has been launched to repay these loans; to date, \$137,000 has been raised. The Cook family challenge, which will add \$1 to every \$3 in new donations, provides a tremendous boost to this important effort. "We are happy to do our part," said Averill Cook's brother Jeff, President of the Environmental Careers Organization with headquarters in Boston. "To grow up surrounded by these fields, forests and mountains was a rare privilege for my family and me. To ensure that future generations will have the same opportunity to enjoy this landscape strikes us as a sound investment in the future." 🌿



## Garden Volunteers Wanted

Have you ever wondered what it takes to create and care for a superb garden? Well, now you can find some of the answers by helping to care for one. The Sedgwick Gardens at Long Hill in Beverly are seeking volunteers to work on Monday and/or Wednesday mornings from 9 AM to noon through November.

The Sedgwick Gardens were originally laid out by Mabel Cabot Sedgwick, author of *The Garden Month by Month* (1907). She combined native pasture cedar, mountain laurel, exotic weeping Japanese cherries and a profusion of spring bulbs with lilacs, roses and azaleas of many varieties in an informal garden of great charm.

After her death in 1937, the gardens came under the care of the second Mrs. Sedgwick, the former Majorie Russell of England, who added an extraordinary collection of tree peonies and koelreuterias, oxydendrums, rhododendrons, stewartias, lotuses and Japanese maples to prolong the flowering season through summer and fall and add autumn color. Throughout the later development of the gardens, Mrs. Sedgwick worked closely with the Arnold Arboretum.

Today the gardens cover approximately five acres and the plant collection contains 400 species, each identified and catalogued with its scientific name. The gardens are currently undergoing rehabilitation guided by a new Master Plan emphasizing their continued vitality as a garden for experimentation and dissemination of horticultural knowledge.

If you would like more information on volunteering at Long Hill, please call Superintendent Lillabeth Wies at 508-921-1944. All levels of expertise are welcome. 🌿



# C ♦ A ♦ L ♦ E ♦ N ♦ D ♦ A ♦ R

## *A Listing of Updated and Newly Scheduled Events*

### M ♦ A ♦ Y

**SAT, MAY 20**

**The Stevens-Coolidge Place Plant Sale**

*Stevens-Coolidge Place, North Andover. 508-652-3580*

A vast array of perennials, old roses, and unusual annuals will be available for sale. Also enjoy the garden's spring display at its peak. The house will be open, with floral arrangements provided by the North Andover Garden Club. Refreshments. All are welcome. Free admission. 10 AM to 2 PM.

**SUN, MAY 28**

**Parker River Festival**

*Lower Green, Newbury. 508-356-4755*

Celebrate the Parker River! Learn about native birds, fish, and the ecology of the river. Activities and exhibits for all ages sponsored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, The Trustees of Reservations, and The Essex Greenbelt Association. 10 AM to 5 PM. Rain date: *Monday, May 29.*

**SAT, MAY 27 - MON, OCT 9**

**Cape Poge Natural History Oversand Tour**

*Chappaquiddick Island, Martha's Vineyard.*

*508-627-3599*

Join us in a specially outfitted "safari" vehicle for a three-hour tour across the remote beaches of Chappaquiddick Island – out to the historic Cape Poge Lighthouse and back. The Cape Poge Natural History Tour will give you a broad and entertaining view into the historic and natural world protected by The Trustees. Member adults \$27, non-member adults \$30, children 15 and under \$15. Call for specific schedules and reservations.

**SAT, MAY 27 - MON, OCT 9**

**Cape Poge Wildlife Canoe Tour**

*Chappaquiddick Island, Martha's Vineyard.*

*508-627-3599*

We are now offering canoe natural history tours of Poucha Pond and Cape Poge Bay, a tidal ecosystem flooded twice daily by waters flowing from Nantucket Sound through Cape Poge Gut. This area is one of the jewels of the Vineyard and a natural refuge for wildlife, including herons, egrets, osprey, cormorants, several species of waterfowl and a variety of shorebirds. The magnificent great blue heron is one of the favorite sights on the tour. Member adults \$27, non-member adults \$30, children 15 and under \$15. Please call for reservations.

**SAT, MAY 27 - MON, OCT 9**

**Great Point Natural History**

**Oversand Tour**

*Coskata Coattue, Nantucket Island. 508-228-6799*

Explore Nantucket's most beautiful and remote barrier beach on a three-hour oversand tour aboard our specially outfitted "safari" vehicle. View herons and egrets in a vast saltmarsh. Ponder the origins of a century-old cedar beach forest. Travel a five-mile arm of open beach to the remote Great Point Lighthouse! Member adults \$27, non-member adults \$30, children 15 and under \$15. Call for reservations.

### J ♦ U ♦ N ♦ E

**SUN, JUN 1 through OCT 15**

**Birding the Cobble**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join naturalist Don Reid or a guest naturalist for a bird watching adventure on Sunday mornings at Bartholomew's Cobble. Each Sunday from June 1 through October 15, we will lead you into different areas of the Cobble. We will learn optics, and the proper way to use them, field guides and their proper use, field identification, and the life histories of animals of the Cobble. 7 AM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

**TUE, JUN - OCT**

**Tuesday Tea and Tours**

*The Old Manse, Concord. 508-369-3909*

Have a leisurely tea in the garden of Emerson and Hawthorne at The Old Manse, then enjoy a tour with a costumed guide. Tuesday afternoons, weather permitting. \$6 per person. Reservations required, please call.

**TUE, JUN - OCT**

**Minute Talks in the Garden**

*The Old Manse, Concord. 508-369-3909*

Spend a minute or two with a costumed guide and hear anecdotes about some of the famous people of The Old Manse. 1 and 3 PM on weekends and holidays. No admission charge.

**SAT, JUN 3**

**A Victorian Garden Ball**

*The Old Manse, Concord. 508-369-3909*

Celebrate the 225th birthday of The Old Manse as we dance under the stars to authentic 19th-century music under the direction of Gentleman Caller, Patri Pugliese.

Refreshments. Victorian dress and dancing experience optional. 6 to 10 PM. \$15 per person, \$25/couple. Reservations required. Please call for information.

### **SAT, JUN 3**

#### **An Evening on the Cobble**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join naturalist Don Reid as he leads you on to Bartholomew's Cobble, after the visitors have left, and the sounds and sights of nature are moving back in. 8 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

### **SAT, JUN 3**

#### **Mission House Plant Sale**

*Mission House, Stockbridge. 413-298-3239*

Heirloom plants for sale matching examples in the historic Fletcher Steele Mission House garden. 9 AM - 3 PM. All are welcome.

### **SAT, JUN 3**

#### **Naumkeag Peony Celebration**

*Naumkeag, Stockbridge. 413-298-3239*

Bring a picnic supper and enjoy viewing the oriental tree peonies. Program and tours of the garden at 5:30 PM. The grounds will close at sundown. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

### **TUES, JUN 6**

#### **Lecture & Workshop Series**

*Long Hill, Beverly. 508-921-1944*

John Mickel will present "Ferns for American Gardens" as part of the annual Lecture & Workshop Series at Long Hill. Call for registration information.

### **SAT, JUN 10**

#### **Birding for Beginners**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join well-known local birder and past President of the Hoffmann Bird Club, Tom Collins, for this introduction to the birds of the Berkshires. 9 AM to 11 AM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

### **SAT, JUN 17**

#### **Life History of Nesting Birds at the Cobble**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join well-known local birder and Editor of *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*, Seth Kellogg, on this exploration into the lives of nesting birds at the Cobble. Learn identification techniques and life histories. 9 AM to 11 AM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

### **SUN, JUN 18**

#### **Birding for Beginners on Father's Day**

*Naumkeag, Stockbridge. 413-298-3239*

Stockbridge is a great place for people to begin their enjoyment of birds and Father's Day is a great time to do it. Join naturalist Don Reid for a walk on the grounds of Naumkeag for this introduction to birding. The program will begin with an introduction to field guides, optics, and the proper way to use them. 9 AM to 11 AM. Please call (413) 298-3239 for information. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

### **SUN, JUN 18**

#### **Monument Mountain Laurel Hike**

*Monument Mountain, Great Barrington. 413-298-3239*

Join Steve McMahon, Stockbridge Properties Superintendent for The Trustees, on Monument Mountain for an afternoon hike and exploration of the natural laurel gardens. 1 PM to 3 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

### **TUES, JUN 20**

#### **Lecture & Workshop Series**

*Long Hill, Beverly. 508-921-1944*

A propagation workshop will be held as part of the annual Lecture & Workshop Series at Long Hill. Call for registration information.

### **WED, JUN 21**

#### **Summer Solstice Celebration**

*World's End Reservation, Hingham. 617-821-2977*

Celebrate Summer Solstice at World's End with family and friends! Bring a picnic and enjoy tractor-drawn hayrides, guided walks, musical entertainment by the Unicorn Singers, and a lesson in understanding the planetary alignment that brings us this wonderful event each summer. All are welcome. No advance registration required. 6 PM to 8 PM. Member adults \$3.00, non-member adults \$5.00. Children free. Rain date: Thursday, June 22. If you are uncertain about cancellation due to weather conditions, please call 617-749-8956 by 4 PM on June 21.

### **SAT, JUN 24**

#### **Sunrise on the Housatonic River**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join naturalist Don Reid on the Housatonic River for sunrise canoeing at a perfect time of day for viewing wildlife. The Housatonic is one of the most scenic rivers in Massachusetts, and has an abundance of bird and mammal life dependent upon its water and river banks. 6 AM to 9 AM. Space limited. Please call to register. Cost of program includes canoe and equipment rental. Member adults \$20, children 10-16 \$10. Non-member adults \$25, children \$12.



# J ♦ U ♦ L ♦ Y

**SAT, JUL 1**

**An Afternoon on the River**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join biologist and naturalist Tim Flanagan on an exploration of the Housatonic River. An intimate look into the ecology of a beautiful river, from wildlife to wildflowers. 2 PM. Cost of the program includes canoe and equipment rental. Space is limited. Please pre-register. Member adults \$20, children 10-16 \$10. Non-member adults \$25, children \$12.

**SAT, JUL 1**

**Independence Day Celebration**

*Grand Allee, The Great House, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

Castle Hill's rolling lawn is transformed into a festive family playground for this traditional American holiday. Crane's Music and Epic Brass perform patriotic favorites, while Little Red Wagon, The Professional Silly Person, and pony rides entertain the children. The evening ends with a spectacular fireworks display over the ocean. 5 PM. Member adults \$9, children 6-12 \$4. Non-member adults \$11, children \$5. *Rain Date: Sunday, July 2.*

**TUES, JUL 4**

**Reminiscing with Priscilla Bailey**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

The tradition continues! Priscilla's dad was the first warden/naturalist at Bartholomew's Cobble. Join Priscilla Bailey on this leisurely Fourth of July bird walk through a very special place. 2 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

**THU, JUL 6**

**Canoeing the Housatonic and Exploring the Cobble**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join naturalists Marilyn Flor and Don Reid for this journey interpreting the natural history of the Housatonic River. The trip will end with a natural history walk at Bartholomew's Cobble. 9 AM to 1 PM. Bring lunch. Space is limited. Pre-registration required. Cost of program includes canoe rental. Member adults \$20, children 10-16 \$10. Non-member adults \$25, children \$12.

**SAT, JUL 8**

**Boogaloo Swamis**

*Concert Barn, Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

Boogaloo Swamis return to Castle Hill by popular demand. Their high-energy Cajun zydeco heats up the barn like the Bayou. 7 PM. Member adults \$17, children \$4. Non-member adults \$19, children \$5.

**SAT, JUL 8**

**Life in a Small Stream**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

What better time than a warm July day to put on the bathing suit and old sneakers and bring children into a small stream to discover the amazing life found in and around it. From the tiny to the not-so-tiny. Wear clothes and footwear you don't mind getting wet. 2 PM. Member adult with child \$5. Non-member adult with child \$7.

**SUN, JUL 9**

**New England Brass Band**

*Concert Barn, Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

Thirty-piece New England Brass Band thrills audiences with its lively and varied repertoire, including Souza, classical, jazz, and opera. New England Brass Band has performed at the Tsai Performance Center and the United States Military Academy at West Point. 7 PM. Member adults \$17, children \$4. Non-member adults \$19, children \$5.

**SAT-SUN, JUL 15-16**

**Bryant Homestead Country Craft Fair**

*Bryant Homestead, Cummington. 413-634-2244*

Do your Christmas shopping early this year at the 10th annual Craft Fair, which will be held on the spacious lawns of the Bryant Homestead, rain or shine. Between 10 AM and 5 PM each day, 115 juried crafters and artisans will display folk crafts and fine arts for sale. Other events will include tea on the veranda, live music, a display of Victorian costumes, a children's petting zoo, special activities booth for children, and craft demonstrations in the 1865 barn. Admission is \$3.00 for adults. Children under 12 are admitted free. The Homestead, a property of The Trustees since 1929, is located in Cummington, just off Route 9 on Route 112 South. For more information, call 413-634-2244 or 413-634-2174.

**SAT, JUL 15**

**Young Explorers**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join naturalist Don Reid on this adventure for young people into the natural world. From birding to botanizing, and everything in between. 9 AM to 11 AM. For children 8 to 12. Member adult with child \$5. Non-member adult with child \$7.

**SAT, JUL 15**

**Reggae by the Sea**

*Italian Garden, Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

The rhythms of the Caribbean cross the ocean to Castle Hill with the island sounds of Jah Spirit and Skavooie and the Epitones. Dance and sway to the tunes in the newly-restored Italian Garden. 8 PM. Open seating: Members \$19, Non-members \$21. Reserved mezzanine seating: \$26. *Rain Date: Sunday, July 16.*

**SUN, JUL 16**

**Ferns of Bartholomew's Cobble**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join author and naturalist Pam Weatherbee to learn about fern identification and life history at a site hosting one of the greatest diversities of species in North America, Bartholomew's Cobble! 2 PM. Member adult \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adult \$5, children \$2.

**SAT, JUL 22**

**Northern Lights**

*Concert Barn, Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

Northern Lights' "newgrass" sound has been delighting audiences since 1978. Combining bluegrass, country, folk, and Cajun, Northern Lights produces a musical vision that is at "the forefront of progressive bluegrass music" says *National Country Music News*. 7 PM. Member adults \$17, children \$4. Non-member adults \$19, children \$5.

**SAT, JUL 22**

**Trees at the Cobble**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join forester George Keiffer as he introduces you to tree identification, uses, and life histories as you walk through Bartholomew's Cobble. 10 AM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

**TUES-WED, JUL 25-26**

**Circus Smirkus**

*Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

Castle Hill sponsors the International youth circus Circus Smirkus for four Big Top performances. Circus Smirkus combines breath-taking gymnastics, lovable clowns, and intricate juggling with the exuberance of youth as these child performers create an unforgettable event for all. All tickets \$10. Sorry, no discounts. Performances on July 25 at 2 PM and 7 PM and on July 26 at 10 AM and 2 PM.

**Circus Smirkus Workshop**

*Tuesday, July 25*

*Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

**11 AM Workshop with 2 PM Show**

Before the show, meet the children behind the clowns and daring acrobats. Learn their secrets, practice with them as they prepare for the show, then stay and see these exciting circus performers complete their amaz-ing acts. Lunch is provided. Reservations required. Limited to 30 children. \$35 per child (ages 8 to 16 only). Sorry, no discounts.

**FRI, JUL 28**

**Annual Garden Party**

*Naumkeag, Stockbridge. 413-298-3239*

By special invitation. Please call the Western Regional Office for more information and invitations.

**SAT, JUL 29**

**Bugs, Bugs, and More Bugs**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join biologist and naturalist Libby Johnson on this adventure into the world of insects. Are all insects bugs? Are all bugs insects? Libby will explain many of the mysteries associated with the world of these tiny critters. This is a program for families to enjoy together! 10 AM. For children 6 to 8 years old. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

**SAT, JUL 29**

**Dressage**

*Italian Garden, Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

New England Dressage Association recreates this European spectacle in full costume. Originating in 18th century France, where it was performed in public gardens, dressage features horse and rider performing graceful and daring equestrian ballet. 8 PM. Lawn seating: Members \$24. Non-members \$26. Reserved mezzanine seating: \$51.

**Dressage Dress Rehearsal**

*Friday, July 28, Italian Garden, 8 PM*

Lawn seating: Members \$14. Non-members \$16. Reserved mezzanine seating: \$26.

**A ♦ U ♦ G ♦ U ♦ S ♦ T**

**SAT, AUG 5**

**An Evening on the River with Rene Laubach**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join well-known naturalist and author Rene Laubach and Trustees' Western Regional Ecologist Don Reid for this adventure on the Housatonic River. Evening is the perfect time to enjoy the solitude of the river and Rene and Don will help you explore it at this peak time for wildlife. 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. Cost of program includes canoe and needed equipment. Member adults \$20, children 10-16 \$10. Non-member adults \$25, children \$12.

**SAT, AUG 5**

**Susan Tedeschi Band and  
The Orville Giddings Band**

*Concert Barn, Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

Castle Hill offers a night of blues with hot new stars Susan Tedeschi Band and The Orville Giddings Band. Tedeschi won the 1994 Battle of the Blues competition at Harper's Ferry. The Orville Giddings Band creates an irresistible boogie blues sound that won't let you sit still. 7 PM. Member adults \$17, children \$4. Non-member adults \$19, children \$5.



**SUN, AUG 6**

**The Nields and Harrod & Funck**

*Concert Barn, Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

Folk sensation The Nields bring their hot alternative style to the Concert Barn. "The Nields may be quirky folks' next big thing," hails the *Boston Phoenix*. Acoustic duo Harrod and Funck open. "Not since Simon and Garfunkel has an acoustic duo stirred me as powerfully as Harrod and Funck," says *Metronome Magazine*. 7 PM. Member adults \$17, children \$4. Non-member adults \$19, children \$5.

**FRI, AUG 11**

**Going Batty**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Rene Laubach is Director of Massachusetts Audubon Society's Berkshire Sanctuaries. He is author of *A Guide to Natural Places in the Berkshire Hills*, and he is nuts about bats! Join him this evening for a slide lecture on these amazing animals, followed by a venture into the wilds with his now famous Bat Detector! 7 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

**SAT, AUG 12**

**Sounds of a Summer Evening**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Walk along the Housatonic River as the sun sets. A time for wildlife, a time to listen. Many animals become active in the evening, so what better time to go out and look and listen? 7:30 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adult \$5, children \$2.

**SAT, AUG 12**

**Renaissomics**

*Concert Barn, Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

Renaissance music lives in the robust performances of Renaissomics chamber quartet. Virtuoso solos, chamber music, dance music, and dazzling improvisations combine in a program that joyously bridges the gap between artistic and pop. Ken Pierce Renaissance Dance Company provides costumed dance accompaniment. 7 PM. Member adults \$17, children \$4. Non-member adults \$19, children \$5.

**SUN, AUG 13**

**The Pastelles and Richie Travers Orchestra**

*Concert Barn, Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

The Pastelles and Richie Travers Orchestra bring "oldies" favorites to Castle Hill. The Pastelles get the audience moving and grooving with fabulous fifties fun and Motown magic. Come share the memories. 7 PM. Member adults \$17, children \$4. Non-member adults \$19, children \$5.

**SAT, AUG 19**

**Crane Beach Sand Blast!**

*Crane Beach, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

Build a sand dragon, sand castle, or even a sand witch at the third annual *Crane Beach Sand Blast!* It's a fun-filled competition for sandscape architects of all ages and abilities. Prizes are awarded by popular vote. Competition categories include: kids (ages 12 and under), teens (ages 13-19), family (any combination of children and adults), adults (ages 20 and up), and master builders. **Please call for advance registration form.**

**Advance registration:** \$14 per group, members \$7 per group. Registration includes guaranteed parking for 1 car and 1 sandscape permit.

**Day of registration:** \$19 per group, members \$12 per group. Registration includes parking for 1 car and 1 sandscape permit. Early arrival is recommended. 8 AM to 4 PM at Crane Beach. Rain date: Sunday, August 20.

**SAT, AUG 19**

**The Amazing World of Butterflies**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join local naturalist Edna Dunbar on this journey into the fascinating world of butterflies. Through identification and study of their life histories, children of all ages will gain a great appreciation of these fascinating creatures. 1 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

**MON, AUG 21 - TUE, SEPT 5**

**Nighthawk Watch**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

For about fifteen days at this time of year a fascinating bird called the Common Nighthawk moves through our area on its annual migration to South America. This is the second year of a migration data-collecting project by Regional Ecologist Don Reid. Each evening beginning at 6 PM and ending at 7:30 or 8 PM, these birds will be counted at timed intervals. For more information, call 413-229-8600. No charge. Volunteers welcome!

**SAT, AUG 26**

**Canoeing the Housatonic with Tom Tying**

*Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Join master naturalist Tom Tying in this exploration of the Housatonic River by canoe. Learn the mysteries of this river's ecology, from wildlife to wildflowers. A special look at Bartholomew's Cobble from a different point of view. Space limited. Pre-registration required. Cost of the program includes canoe rental and needed equipment. 9 AM. Member adults \$20, children 12-16 \$10. Non-member adults \$25, children \$12.

# SHORTS ♦ OF ♦ ALL ♦ SORTS

◆ Two recent gifts of Essex marshland have expanded The Trustees' holdings there and increased the protection afforded this vital ecological system. **Mrs. Beatrice Woodbury** of Port Richey, Florida, donated seven parcels, totaling 22 acres, in the marsh expanse between Hog Island, the Castle Neck River, and the mainland in memory of her late husband **George Russell Woodbury**, who loved to hunt there.

◆ A few weeks later, a one and one-half acre parcel on the Great Thatch Bank, immediately south of Hog Island, was donated by the late **Mrs. Janet Hopkins** of Essex. We are grateful for these generous gifts.

◆ **The Islands Regional Office** has a new location. Due to space problems at the Wakeman Center, the office is now located at 31 Beach Road, Unit 20, 2nd Floor, Tisbury Market Place, Vineyard Haven. Regular mail will still be received at the Wakeman Center and the telephone number remains 508-693-7662. **The new FAX number is 508-693-7717.** The OSV/Beach Hotline number remains 508-692-5966 and the Cape Poge Tour line remains 508-627-3599.

◆ Two volunteers in the Membership Office have received recognition for their service to The Trustees. **Liz Howden** of South Hamilton received a certificate of appreciation for the completion of 220 hours of service while **Alice Davis** of Hamilton received a certificate for completion of 100 hours of service.

Other membership office volunteers include **Elly Andrews**, Hamilton; **Martha Collier**, Beverly; **Regina Cusick**, Arlington; **Carol French**, Bedford; **Virginia Haywood**, Topsfield; and **Corinne Languedoc**, South Hamilton. If you would like to volunteer, please call Susan McGarvey at 508-921-1944.

◆ Thank you to the more than 400 people who contributed to the **"Two Mile Reservation Fund."** Since the gift of 60 acres of land was announced in January of 1994, long-time Trustees' supporters were joined by new friends to champion the effort to establish a new reservation. We are pleased to announce that through this very generous outpouring of support, we have surpassed the \$75,000 goal. Plans are now afoot to open the new "Two Mile Reservation" on the North River in North Marshfield. Watch for news about its opening, tentatively scheduled for October 1995.

◆ In early January, **Standing Committee Chairman Norton Sloan** represented The Trustees at a gala luncheon at London's Grosvenor House, launching the centenary celebration of England's National Trust. Featured speakers were Sir Angus Stirling, Director-General of the National Trust, who represented the Trust

at our centennial celebration at Castle Hill in 1991 and HRH The Prince of Wales, Patron of the Centenary. The National Trust's charter was patterned on that of The Trustees of Reservations and relations between the two organizations have always been warm.

◆ **A Checklist to the Birds of Bartholomew's Cobble** is now available free of charge. To receive a copy, please send a legal-sized, self-addressed and stamped envelope with your request to Warden Don Reid at P O Box 128, Ashley Falls, MA 01222.

◆ In April, **Gordon Abbott, Jr.** former director of The Trustees and author of *Saving Special Places*, a beautifully rendered history of The Trustees of Reservations, made a presentation to members of The Boston Athenaeum and special guests. Gordon showed slides of the properties and shared anecdotes of the extraordinary people who guided the organization from its beginnings in 1891.

◆ From a letter received from donor **Mary Beitzel**: "The enclosed contribution is in memory of a very dear friend, who shared many wonderful hours with me and others, watching high tide at Halibut Point. We always felt a sense of gratitude to your organization for seeking out, protecting, and making available to the public places of natural beauty and historic interest within the Commonwealth.

... we spent a short time at Bartholomew's Cobble – lovely; and another time ... climbed Monument Mountain. Thank you for these delightful memories."

◆ **Dream lot for sale! The Trustees' affiliate, the Massachusetts Land Conservation Trust, Inc. (MLCT)** is offering for sale a beautiful 4.3-acre lot near the Charles River in Sherborn, located off South Main Street (Route 27). Adjacent to more than 350 acres of conservation land, including The Trustees' **Rocky Narrows Reservation**, with trails for walking and riding, this beautiful, secluded spot is enclosed by stone walls and surrounded by woodland.

The sale of the lot will support The Trustees' recent acquisition of nearly 80 acres, including one-quarter mile of river frontage. For information, or to request a bid package, contact **Valerie Talmage** or **Mary Campbell** at **617-821-2977**. Proposals to purchase are due by 4 PM on May 19, 1995, with \$275,000 the minimum bid considered.

◆ In the wish-list department, the **Islands Regional Office** would greatly appreciate a small, dorm-sized refrigerator and a small microwave oven. If you can supply one of these informal lunchroom basics for their new office, please call Cici Berg at 508-693-7662.



## Order trail maps for your favorite reservations! \$2 per map

- \_\_\_\_\_ Bartholomew's Cobble, *Ashley Falls*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Brooks Woodland Preserve/North Common Meadow/Swift River, *Petersham (1 map)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bryant Homestead, *Cumington*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cape Poge/Wasque/Mytoi, *Martha's Vineyard (1 map)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chesterfield Gorge, *West Chesterfield*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Coolidge Reservation, *Manchester*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Crane Memorial Reservation/Crane Wildlife Refuge, *Ipswich and Essex (1 map)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Elliott Laurel Reservation, *Phillipston*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Field Farm, *Williamstown*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Greenwood Farm, *Ipswich*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Long Point Wildlife Refuge, *West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Menemsha Hills, *Chilmark*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Misery Islands Reservation, *Salem Bay*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Monument Mountain, *Great Barrington*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Noanet Woodlands, *Dover*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Notchview Reservation, *Windsor*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ravenswood Park, *Gloucester*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rock House, *West Brookfield*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rocky Woods, *Medfield – Hiking*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rocky Woods, *Medfield – Cross-country skiing*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tyringham Cobble, *Tyringham*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ward Reservation, *North Andover*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Weir Hill Reservation, *North Andover*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Whitney and Thayer Woods, *Cohasset and Hingham*
- \_\_\_\_\_ World's End, *Hingham*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Total # of maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2 for each map (shipping included)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

Ship to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to The Trustees of Reservations and mail to The Trustees of Reservations, MAPS, 572 Essex Street, Beverly, MA 01915-1530.*



## Labor-in-Vain Golf Tournament to Benefit Castle Hill

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime experience. It's not too late to sign up for the Labor-in-Vain Golf Tournament to benefit the Castle Hill Restoration Fund to be played Friday through Sunday, June 16-18.

The tournament will be a nine-hole Captain's choice. The entry fee of \$125 includes a complimentary continental breakfast, gourmet lunch, and cocktail reception on the grounds.

For full details, call Co-Chairperson Jane Wykoff at 508-921-0522. 🏌️

## Castle Hill Grounds Open for Walking and Picnics *(Continued from front cover)*

the stunning site, he selected the preeminent firm of Olmsted Brothers, who designed the Grand Allee, incorporating a swimming pool and bathhouses, and an Italian Garden, maze and bowling green. A few years later, local landscape architect Arthur A. Shurcliff elaborated the property further, adding a rose garden and a *potager*, or French-style walled vegetable garden. The English Stuart-style Great House standing at the center of the estate today was designed by Chicago architect David Adler, and replaced the original Great House in 1924, when Mrs. Crane's long-standing dislike of the first house finally prevailed.

Today Castle Hill endures as one of the few great American country estates surviving intact. Its buildings, gardens and park are testament to the grand concept of these self-sufficient enclaves. In addition, Castle Hill benefits from an extraordinary site: its remarkable designed environment frames breathtaking vistas into the surrounding natural landscape of saltmarsh, dune, sea and distant islands. The Trustees are proud to be able to make this superlative property regularly available to the public again.

Because Castle Hill will continue to host summer festival performances and private events throughout the year, during which the property is closed to regular visitation, we ask you to call 508-356-4351 before making a special trip to Castle Hill to be sure the property is open on the day you would like to visit. 🏡



Mytoi, the lovely Japanese-style garden on Chappaquiddick Island, is the focus of a planning and fund-raising effort to rehabilitate plantings damaged by Hurricane Bob in 1991. Photo by T.C. Fitzgerald.

## Restoring an Island Garden

Lindsay Allison remembers passing by Mrs. Wakeman's garden as a child. Through the shrubs and trees along the side of Dike Road on Chappaquiddick she could see the small hills inside "absolutely carpeted with daffodils."

Mary Wakeman was a well-known Martha's Vineyard conservationist, and she gave the garden which she called Mytoi (me-toy) to The Trustees in 1976. Shortly thereafter, it was opened to the public, and Lindsay Allison went inside.

What she discovered was a whimsical, Japanese-style garden of about three acres designed and constructed by Mrs. Wakeman with help from architect Hugh Jones. In the dappled shade of the tall pines and oaks, Lindsay found a graceful bridge across a small pond, with dogwood, lady slippers and iris joining the daffodils, trillium, azaleas and wild roses in a continuous parade of color.

It became a favorite place for Lindsay, and when her father died a few years later, she and her family planted a group of rhododendrons at Mytoi in his memory. With The Trustees permission, she was stopping by regularly to prune the shrubs, separate and replant bulbs and perennials, plant her drumstick primroses, and enjoy the serenity of the garden.

But in August of 1991, Mytoi changed dramatically. Hurricane Bob swept over Chappaquiddick, and the garden was struck by windbursts of near-tornado ferocity. More than 100 large oaks and pines were uprooted, taking with them most of the nearly 2,000 bulbs Lindsay had planted just a few years before. The garden was an ugly tangle of branches, stumps, and roots. It was closed to the public for weeks while Trustees crews from across the state joined the Islands staff with chainsaws, chippers, and heavy equipment.

By the following spring, Mytoi was again safe and much neater, but visitors on a June Discovery Day realized that without the large shade trees, the garden would be greatly diminished and forever changed.

Lindsay Allison rallied other volunteers, including Don Sibley, Dale Carter, and Nancy Hyatt, and with some initial guidance from Gary Koller of The Arnold Arboretum, a few trees, shrubs, and plants were purchased and installed. But there was no overall plan or garden design to lend coherence to Mytoi.

Enter Julie Moir Messervy, a landscape design consultant who had studied planning at M.I.T. and garden design in Japan. Messervy's career has been focused on "creating intimate, contemplative places that people can visit for spiritual resuscitation as well as for beauty," and she had recently completed projects for The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. When The Trustees called last winter, she was wrapping up her second garden design book, *The Inward Garden* (Little, Brown, 1995).

After a chilly, day-long visit to Mytoi with Lindsay Allison in January, Messervy was retained by The Trustees to complete a Master Plan for the garden, including a detailed planting plan. Even in mid-winter, Messervy found at Mytoi an appealing contrast between the garden area and the natural landscape on the south side of Dike Road.



Lindsay Allison and Julie Messervy confer on plans for Mytoi. Photo by Richard T. Howe.

In the garden, Messervy foresees a sequence of twelve separate but related areas through which the visitor will pass, each with its own distinct attraction and feeling, but also related to a coherent vision for the entire garden.

"We won't be creating new areas," she said, "as much as enhancing the existing themes and structure of each area to make the image much clearer." Although Messervy sees the garden as a happy, bright, ebullient place (especially since the hurricane), "we can add in the quieter, more contemplative moments along the way," she said.

This summer Julie Messervy and Lindsay Allison will present a series of vignette sketches to The Chappaquiddick Committee and other supporters. There will be opportunities for individuals to follow the same path that drew Lindsay Allison to visit Mytoi: supporting the creation of one or more special areas, perhaps in memory or recognition of a loved one. ♣



## Historic Houses Open for Season

We often think of The Trustees' magnificent open space properties as preserving nature untouched by human hands. In fact, the landscape of Massachusetts was largely shaped by centuries of Native American occupation and heavily timbered and farmed by European settlers beginning in the 17th century. From the stone walls running through our woodlands to the shell middens amid barrier beach dunes, evidence of previous human interaction with the land is ever present.

Among The Trustees' holdings, the most obvious artifacts of human interaction with the land are the historic houses: from farmsteads of 18th-century settlers to Gilded Age country estates, these properties each comprise a domestic landscape, outbuildings, and furnished house, backed up by extensive historical documentation enabling us to tell the story of the occupants' lives and their unique relationship with the Massachusetts land. Whether your interest is in the pioneer experience in Western Massachusetts, the flowering of American literature, or the golden age of American estate gardening, The Trustees' historic houses have something for you. Admission to guided tours is free to Trustees' members. 🏡



*Designed by Stanford White in 1885 for noted attorney and ambassador to England Joseph Choate, with gardens by Fletcher Steele, Naumkeag is the perfect example of the gilded age in the Berkshires.*

## Historic Houses in the East

### Castle Hill

*Argilla Road, Ipswich. 508-356-4351*

Open May through October, Tuesday, 1 PM to 4 PM. Guided tours. Grounds open daily 8 AM to sunset, except when reserved for special events; please call ahead.

### Long Hill

*572 Essex Street, Beverly. 508-921-1944.*

Open Tuesday, 9:30 AM to 1 PM and Thursday, 12:30 PM to 4 PM, or by appointment. Guided tours. Gardens open daily, 8 AM to sunset, except when reserved for special events; please call ahead on weekends.

### The Old Manse

*Monument Street, Concord. 508-369-3903.*

Open April 15 through October, Wednesday through Monday. Hours 10 AM to 5 PM. Guided tours.

### The Stevens-Coolidge Place

*Andover Street, North Andover. 508-682-3580.*

Open May through October, Sunday, 1 PM to 5 PM, Wednesday, 2 PM to 4 PM, or by appointment. Guided tours. Gardens open daily, 8 AM to sunset.

## Historic Houses in the West

### The Colonel John Ashley House

*Cooper Hill Road, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600*

Open Memorial Day Weekend to Columbus Day, weekends and holidays. Open last Wednesday in June to Labor Day, Wednesday through Sunday. Hours 1 PM to 5 PM. Guided tours.

### The William Cullen Bryant Homestead

*Off Route 112, Cummington. 413-634-2244*

Open Last Friday in June to Labor Day, Friday through Sunday and Monday holidays. After Labor Day to Columbus Day, open weekends and Monday holidays. Hours 1 PM to 5 PM. Guided tours.

### The Mission House

*Main Street, Stockbridge. 413-298-3239*

Open Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day. Tuesday through Sunday and Monday holidays. Hours 11 AM to 4 PM. Guided tours.

### Naumkeag

*Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge. 413-298-3239*

Open Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day. Tuesday through Sunday and Monday holidays. Hours 10 AM to 5 PM. Guided tours of the house. Self-guided tours of the gardens.

# Ecology

C. Diane Boretos  
Islands Regional Ecologist

## Vernal Pools: *Heralds of Spring*

It's a warm, drizzly evening in late March and as you drive by the small pool of water by the side of the road you hear the first true evidence that spring is here – the breeding chorus of the male Spring Peepers (*Hyla crucifer*)! If you have heard them but not seen them, peepers are one-inch long frogs with a dark X-shaped pattern on their backs. And, that small pool by the road is a vernal pool.

What are vernal pools? They are temporary pools that are seasonally flooded in the spring and, for most of the year, are usually dry and go unnoticed. They range in size from small puddles to large ponds that hold water most of the year. Because of this seasonal quality, vernal pools are also called autumnal pools or ephemeral ponds.

Why are vernal pools important wildlife habitat? In spite of their ephemeral status, a variety of wildlife depend on these areas. The extreme alternation of wetness and dryness creates an unusual situation that supports the essential breeding habitat for amphibians such as frogs and salamanders that have evolved to survive these dramatic changes. There are several species of endangered mole salamander such as the spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) and marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*) that only breed in vernal pools. In fact, some of these species will only breed in the pools where they were born.

During the spring's first warm, rainy nights, salamanders and frogs emerge from their winter hibernation beneath the forest floors of the nearby, and not so nearby, upland areas and migrate to vernal pools to breed. Because vernal pools dry up for a portion of the year, fish are unable to inhabit them, increasing the survival rate for amphibian eggs.

Fairy shrimp (*Eubranchipus* sp.) are small crustaceans that also breed in vernal pools. In fact, their entire life cycle is completed during the aquatic stage of the pools. Some species of fairy shrimp eggs can survive years of drought conditions and still maintain viability when the pool is again flooded.

Vernal pools also play a major role in the food chain. For example, salamander and frog eggs, and insects such as caddisflies, dragonflies and beetles, feed larger animals from the surrounding uplands. These include other amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

Vernal pools occur worldwide. In the northeastern United States, the best time to explore vernal pools is from mid-March to July. They are magical areas in which to view a fascinating world of diverse organisms that rejoice in the rebirth of life with each year's spring season.

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MNH & ESP) has a Vernal Pool Certification Program. Certified pools are protected under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations that are administered through your local conservation commission, and the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, which are administered through the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Wetlands. For more information on how to certify a vernal pool, call MNH & ESP at (508) 792-7270. 🐸

## Opportunities for Members of The Trustees

🐸 The Charles River Watershed Association has begun a five-year study called "The IM3 Project" to collect scientific data on the river. This study is the first to encompass the entire 80 miles of the Charles River. We will investigate the effects of storm water and how it changes the river's height, flow rate, concentration of pollutants, canoeing accessibility, fishing and wildlife. Volunteers are needed to help with this vital work!

Volunteers need not be a member of the Charles River Watershed Association to participate. Who should come? Students, teachers, members of Audubon, The Trustees of Reservations, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, anglers and canoeists. Put on your sneakers and call **Mike Schroeder at 359-6938** or **Bob Costello at 359-7815** for more information.

🐸 The conservation Commission for the Town of Mashpee is sponsoring a number of nature walks, through the summer and fall, many of which will feature two of The Trustees' properties; **Lowell Holly** and **Mashpee River Reservations**. For specific dates and times, please call the **Mashpee Conservation Commission at 508-539-1414**.



## Historic Massachusetts, Inc. Honors The Trustees

Historic Massachusetts, Inc. (HMI), a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth's historic and cultural heritage, has honored The Trustees of Reservations with its prestigious *Frederick Law Olmsted Award*.

The *Olmsted Award* was inaugurated by HMI to recognize outstanding leadership in landscape preservation. Arthur P. Bergeron, President of HMI, in speaking of this year's award, stated, "It honors The Trustees' remarkable achievements in the preservation and conservation of Massachusetts landscapes and their continuing commitment to making these sites available for public use and enjoyment." He termed The Trustees uniquely qualified for this special recognition.

The *Olmsted Award* was presented at HMI's annual dinner on Wednesday, May 10, at the Copley Plaza Hotel. In accepting the award on behalf of The Trustees, Standing Committee Chairman Norton Sloan said, "We are delighted to have this recognition of our work and the role The Trustees of Reservations plays in protecting the best of the Massachusetts landscape for all to enjoy." 🌲



Around 1886, Frederick Law Olmsted designed roads and land-scaping for a proposed development of John Brewer's Hingham farm. The development never occurred, but Olmsted's tree-lined carriage paths continue to grace the property we know today as World's End.

## THE SEMPER VIRENS SOCIETY



### We extend an invitation to join *The Semper Virens Society*

*Semper virens* . . . . Always green . . . .  
We have established *The Semper Virens Society* to honor all those friends who have advised us of their intention to include The Trustees of Reservations in their will or other estate plans.

These ancient Latin words have been chosen for a reason: *virens* hails from the verb *virere* and literally means to be green, healthy, and vigorous. Your planned gift – whether a bequest, an investment in our Pooled Income Fund or the designation of The Trustees as the beneficiary of a life income trust – helps build the endowment, thus assuring a healthy, vigorous future for The Trustees of Reservations far into the 21st century and beyond.

We wish to honor those who have made such long-term commitments. These special gifts ensure that the scenic, historic and ecological treasures of Massachusetts will stay green and safely protected forever.

If you have already made a provision for The Trustees in your estate plan, please let us know so that we may acknowledge your thoughtfulness. If you wish information about joining *The Semper Virens Society* as a charter member, or how to make a planned gift, please call or write:

Eloise W. Hodges  
Deputy Director for Planned Giving  
The Trustees of Reservations  
572 Essex Street  
Beverly, MA 01915  
(508) 921-1944

572 Essex Street  
Beverly, MA 01915-1530  
508-921-1944

## The Trustees of Reservations

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### Pigs Return to Powisset

Prior to its acquisition by The Trustees, Powisset Farm in Dover was owned by Miss Amelia Peabody, who raised prize-winning Yorkshire pigs on the farm. Our goal has always been to keep Powisset a fully working farm, a goal recently achieved with the return of pigs to Powisset.

Tom Foster, Southeast Regional Supervisor, reports that a 4-H Club pig project has been added to the three agricultural operations already underway at Powisset: John Buttimer's Sunny Rock Farm haying operation, Chris Yoder and Tom Cronin's organic vegetable gardening, and Mark Bailey's Belted Galloway cattle. A group of 4-H boys are raising Yorkshire and American Landrace pigs for market. When the pigs reach market weight (210-220 lbs.) they will be sold on the hoof to wholesale meat buyers at livestock auctions or to individuals for pig roasts.

Tom reports a growing pig population and fine work by the boys, their parents, and friends, in updating systems in the piggery, including installation of a new water line for automatic waterers.

Miss Peabody would be proud! 🌱



Jeff Hockman, Kevin Kouri, and Jason Hockman pose with one of the pigs in their 4-H Club project. Photo by Betsy Horowitz.